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THE DEATH OF RUIZ.

He Walked to His Fate After Having Been Warned.

AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT STORY.

He Paid No Heed to the Orders of General Gomez—Others Will Hesitate Before Proposing Autonomy—Weyler Predicts That Autonomy For Cuba Will Be a Failure—Other Cuban News.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—T. Estrada Palma of the Cuban junta has made the following statement:

"The death of Colonel Ruiz did not occur, as the Spanish have put it, while he was negotiating as a peace messenger under a flag of truce. Again and again have the Cubans promulgated the law that all who should come to them with peace propositions not based on the independence of Cuba should be treated as spies and dealt with accordingly. Colonel Ruiz not only knew of the existence of the law but, according to the Spanish accounts, was personally warned of his fate. General Blanco and Secretary General Congosto, too, were well aware of the existence of the decree. Nevertheless, these latter took advantage of the unfortunate 'Quixotism' of Colonel Ruiz and sent him to the Cuban lines. The blood of Colonel Ruiz is not on the hands of the Cubans, but on the heads of Blanco and Congosto, who sent him to his fate.

"If the penalty of the law had not been carried into effect doubtless Spain would have taken advantage of the fact to show that the Cubans were not in earnest in their rejection of autonomy absolutely, but were willing to listen to arguments. The decree was not promulgated because the Cubans were afraid of disaffection in their ranks, but because it is known that innumerable commissioners would otherwise be sent and on their return make false statements encouraging the belief that peace might be established on a basis other than independence.

"Such statements would only serve the interests of Spain in gaining time, with the resulting deaths of thousands owing to the useless prolongation of the war. Besides, the Cubans are advised that the Spanish are seeking to enter the insurgent lines with the purpose of assassinating the more important leaders. Documentary proof of this fact is in our hands and we are the more cautious when we remember that in 1879 General Blanco authorized General Polavieja, in Santiago, Cuba, to execute as many unarmed Cubans as the latter thought necessary as an example.

"It is somewhat remarkable that with the first news of the death of Colonel Ruiz came the announcement of the killing by the Spanish of over 40 sick and wounded Cubans found in a hospital and not a voice was raised in protest thereat. The shooting of Cuban prisoners by the score passed without comment; the thousands of wounded Cuban soldiers slain in hospitals attract but little notice. According to all the laws of civilized warfare, the Cubans from the beginning had the right to retaliate in kind but they never have done so. On the contrary all prisoners taken by them were set at liberty and the wounded attended to.

"We are denied by the entire world status as belligerents and might therefore claim that we have no obligations to conduct the war as belligerents, but we do not intend to take this stand. The conditions obtaining in Cuba and the character of the Spanish demand however, that we take the necessary measures to speedily terminate the war by convincing the world that independence alone will satisfy us.

"We accordingly issue a decree and solemnly warn Spain of its enactment. If despite the warnings they persuade a man to be rash enough to come to us to treat on the basis of autonomy we must either acknowledge that our laws are made only to be broken or be compelled by a painful duty to carry them out."

OTHERS WILL HESITATE.

A Private Letter Giving Further Account of Ruiz' Death.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Senorita Clemencia Arango, sister of Colonel Arango, of the Cuban army, has received the following letter from a member of the Cuban revolutionary committee in Havana:

"Colonel Joaquin Ruiz, the former superintending engineer of the Albar waterworks, paying no heed to the orders issued by General Gomez, and wishing to make little the laws of the republic, had the hardihood to undertake the proposal of autonomy to Colonel Arangueren of the Havana squadron. In consideration of his acceptance he was to receive a considerable sum of money which was to be increased in proportion to the number and rank of the Cubans who should accept the insulting proposition.

"But Colonel Arangueren, in compliance with orders and setting aside all consideration of the personal friendship which he had for the Spanish intruder, ordered that Colonel Ruiz be tried by a summary court-martial. The military tribunal sentenced him to death, and he was executed three days ago.

"May Ruiz rest in peace. Honor to Arangueren's stoic discipline.

"Canalejas was making ready to go on a similar expedition to General Betancourt in Matanzas. I believe he has now changed his mind. How long will it take our enemies to understand that the sacred cause we defend is independence or death?"

MILLIONS IN ROYALTIES.

A Claimant For Valuable Inventions in Electricity.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—A special to The Herald from Washington says: The patent office has granted three important patents to Rudolph M. Hunter of Philadelphia, assignor to the General Electric company of New York, on the transmission of electrical energy, covering a period of 17 years. Should the supreme court of the United States uphold these patents millions of dollars in royalties must be paid by the Westinghouse and other electrical companies.

These patents are of greater importance to the electric world than any granted in years, as the appliances covered by the patents are being used by the large electric lighting companies in all the large cities.

Mr. Greeley, assistant commissioner of patents, said: "The patents cover broadly the idea of generating high tension currents and transmitting them through or by means of the induction coil, or transmitters, into low tension currents or high tensioned currents as the case may be, for distribution. By this process there is much less leakage and the currents can be sent a greater distance. There is far more danger in these currents, as they are too high tensioned to be used in lightning or for power purposes.

The system patented, however, enables the electric company to transmit heavy currents into low tension by sending the high tension current through a fine wire coil by a transmitter, which has a coarser wire wound around it. The high tension current generates by inducing a current of lower tension in a coil of coarser wire. By this process the current can be regulated at will. There is no doubt that the patents cover systems which are very largely in use at the present time. They are very broad. They will probably more largely affect the Westinghouse company than any other electrical concern in this country, and in all probability will result in long-drawn-out lawsuits.

"They will not affect the electrical roads because they use what is known as the direct current. These patents have reference to what is known as the alternating current. It is largely used for lighting purposes, but not, I think, for power purposes.

"Of course, the General Electric company will be entitled to royalties wherever this system is in use, and it will be impossible to even estimate the amount of money involved in this particular case. It will certainly run up into the millions and almost certainly result in long-drawn-out law suits."

REV. W. W. BROWNE DEAD.

One of the Most Remarkable Colored Men in the South.

RICHMOND, Dec. 23.—Rev. W. W. Browne, the president of the Grand Fountain of True Reformers, the most powerful organization among the colored people of the south, is dead, in Washington City from blood poison, he having refused the amputation of his arm as the only chance for his life. He was a remarkable man and his death will be a heavy loss to his race.

He was a slave in Georgia until the war, when he joined the Union navy and served as a gunner on the United States gunboat National. When mustered out of the service he was a sergeant major. He was one of the wealthy men of his race in the south, being worth \$125,000, and on his death bed transferred to the Grand Fountain a fine farm near this city to be used as an old folks' home for colored people.

An Unknown Woman Killed.

CECIL, O., Dec. 23.—A frightful accident happened here on the Cincinnati Northern road. A woman and three small children were on the local passenger train when the former went to the depot platform, and while the engine was doing some switching she slipped and fell under the cars. Her right leg was severed close to the hip and her left foot crushed. She died soon after. She was en route from Antwerp to Sherwood. Her name is unknown, as nothing was found on her person to establish her identity.

Funeral of Miss Herbert.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Impressive funeral services were held yesterday afternoon over the remains of Miss Leila Herbert, daughter of ex-Secretary Herbert, who committed suicide Tuesday. The services were held at St. Andrews Episcopal church and were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Perry, according to the rites of the Episcopal church. The remains were taken to Montgomery, Ala., where they will be interred on Friday beside those of her mother.

Aged Woman Found Dead.

WARREN, O., Dec. 23.—Mrs. Jack Welsh, an aged resident of Warren, was found dead in her home. Tuesday afternoon. She had not been seen since Saturday and this fact attracted attention, and caused an investigation by Officer Griffin. She had evidently been dead since Saturday and her death is attributed to heart disease.

DORTMUND, Prussia, Dec. 23.—An explosion of fireamp has taken place at the Kaiser Stuhlzei pit, with terrible results. Eight corpses have been brought to the surface and seven men, living, but severely injured. There are five still missing.

Will Come Off Monday Night.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The fight between Wolcott and Tracy has been finally set for Monday night. Both men have continued their training and are in excellent condition.

NEW PENSION SCHEME

All the Old Veteran to Be Paid Off in Cash.

BASED ON EXPECTANCY OF LIFE.

Millions of Dollars Will Be Saved to the Government and the Vast Army of Pensioners Will Be Benefited at the Same Time—The Bill to Be Introduced Just After the Holiday Recess.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The Press says: W. F. Rockwell, a prominent manufacturer of Meriden, Conn., has in view the presentation of a bill in congress through the pension committee looking toward the funding of the pension appropriation. This bill, according to Mr. Rockwell, promises to be of great benefit, not only to the government in the saving of many millions of dollars, but to the vast army of pensioners also. Mr. Rockwell has talked about his plan to President McKinley, Secretary Bliss, members of the ways and means committee and to pension officials, all of whom, he says, think well of it, but they have not decided yet how it would be received by the country. Pensioners who have been approached by Mr. Rockwell on the subject also think well of the idea, and are inclined to view it in a favorable light. He has consulted also numerous bankers, commercial men and life insurance actuaries, who approve the scheme and admit its feasibility believing it to be entirely practicable.

"It has long been an idea of congress," said Mr. Rockwell, in speaking of his plan to a Press reporter yesterday, "that pensioners are dependent, whereas, as a matter of fact, the great bulk of them are independent. Thousands of them are owners of farms in the west, which are mortgaged, the mortgages bearing interest anywhere from 8 to 12 per cent. My idea is to issue negotiable bonds to the pensioners or to pay them the cash at their option, to cover the amount they would receive from the government, based on life insurance expectancy. This would enable them to pay off those mortgages, thus saving to them the difference between the lowest rate of interest in any state—6 per cent—and the interest on the bonds, 3 1/2 per cent. This would relieve them from their present entanglements. There are, in round numbers about 950,000 persons on the pension rolls, and to those who are not owners of farms the payment of the entire amount, which, according to my table, would be due them, would enable many of them to start in business, and this in itself would put a large amount of business in circulation that would inure to the benefit not only of the community in which they reside, but to the country. It would also be a great saving to the government in the way of salaries and expenses, since it would do away with the pension office machinery while the only expense the government would incur would be the issuing of the bonds. It would also do away with pension attorneys, who receive from pensioners a good share of the money paid out for them."

Mr. Rockwell has no interest in this bill, he says, beyond the benefit which would accrue to the government and pensioners by its adoption. He thinks the pension roll is becoming a greater incubus upon the treasury each year and that, sooner or later, something must be done with it. He believes this idea in a great measure will relieve the strain. While viewing his plan in a favorable light, Mr. Rockwell admits that it is open for discussion, and he desires that it be brought out any features that may seem impracticable. To that end he invites criticism. After the holidays he will have another conference with the president and Mr. Bliss, and if the result be favorable his bill will be introduced through the pension committee.

LIST OF PENSIONERS.

One Will Probably Be Published in the Near Future.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Commissioner Evans of the pension bureau is a strong advocate of the policy of publishing the entire list of persons who draw pensions from the government. He expects that a bill for this purpose will be introduced in congress when it reassembles in January.

A recommendation that a list be published was made by the commissioner in his annual report, as he expressed the belief that it would be particularly valuable for the use of the special examiners in the field.

In 1883 the bureau published a list of pensioners, but since that time there have been many additions and eliminations from it, besides additions granted, etc., so that it is not of practical use at this time.

SMALL FORTUNE FOUND.

In the Room of a Deceased Woman Who Was Once Tortured by Robbers.

DELPHOS, O., Dec. 23.—The relatives of the late Mrs. Barbara Pickett, who was found dead in a hayloft last week, found nearly \$10,000 in notes and money, when they searched her room. The room was closed after her death, and not opened until the administrator of the estate came yesterday.

The money, about \$800 in gold coin, \$2,000 in paper money and balance of about \$5,000 in coin and about \$5,000 in good notes, was found scattered in every drawer of her wardrobe and about \$1,500 was found stitched under the lining of an old bonnet.

About 20 years ago, while her husband was still living, robbers attempted

to make the aged couple disclose the hiding place of their hoards, but, although they tortured them severely, and left them for dead, they failed in their object. All concerned are much surprised, as they did not expect to find over \$100. It represents a lifetime's savings of the old folks.

STAGE STRUCK BY A TRAIN.

Twenty Persons Injured, Three of Them Perhaps Fatally.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Twenty persons were injured, three perhaps fatally, at a grade crossing on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad between Passaic and Delawana, N. J., last night. They were in a stage which was struck by a train. That any of them escaped is regarded as marvelous. The victims, all of Passaic, are probably fatally injured. They are: William Crane, driver, arm and shoulder broken, injured internally. William Moran, head and body badly cut, skull believed to be fractured. Charles Swenke, skull fractured, face cut and injured internally.

Those seriously injured are: Michael Burns, Lena Dennett, Michael Earnest, John Feeney, John Hay, Paul Jeffrey, Harry Johnson, Margaret Kitchen, Samuel McAlpin, John Nixon, George Roberts, Hugh Tobin, William Roberts, Nellie Washdyke. In addition to these several were slightly hurt.

All the victims are employed in the Wothern & Aldrich mill at Delawana, about two miles from Passaic. They ride to and from their work in a big covered stage. There were 36 persons crowded into the stage last night. The party relieved the monotony of the trip by singing, and it was not until the horses were on the tracks that the engine was seen by the driver. It was then almost at hand, coming swiftly along. The driver struck his horses sharply with the whip and they leaped forward, then stopped abruptly at the gate closed on the other side of the track.

The locomotive struck the stage almost in the middle, hurling it several feet ahead, and then struck it again, throwing it from the track. With the second blow of the locomotive the occupants of the stage were scattered in all directions.

Assistance soon arrived and ambulances and physicians were summoned from Passaic.

SECOND CLASS MAIL CHANGES.

Loud's Bill May Pass and Save Many Millions of Dollars.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Chairman Loud of the house committee on post-offices has been working during the recess on the report of the committee on the Loud bill and has practically completed it. He believes that the measure will effect a saving of at least \$10,000,000 annually and will wipe out the enormous deficit that confronts the postoffice department every year. Mr. Loud believed that the bill is much stronger this session than last and while not absolutely confident, believes it will finally carry.

The opposition probably will be directed in the main to obstructive tactics, delaying consideration of the measure. This is what killed it in the senate at the last session, it having passed the house, but died on the senate calendar. The report will be submitted to the house the first or second day after congress reconvenes. The bill is a sweeping one and eliminates several volumes and sample copies from the second class of mail matter.

MRS. NACK WILL GET OFF LIGHTLY.

The Prosecution Reluctantly Will Accept a Plea of Manslaughter.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The Herald says: While District Attorney Youngs of Queens county is noncommittal upon the matter, it is understood that he has finally decided to allow Mrs. Nack to plead guilty to manslaughter in the first degree.

It is asserted that the prosecuting officers have gone over carefully the evidence against the woman and reached the conclusion that it would be impossible to convict her either of murder in the first or second degree. Her confession made on the Thorn trial could not be used against her, it is alleged.

She probably will be arraigned before Justice Garretson at the January term of the supreme court, which opens in Long Island City on Monday, Jan. 3, and be allowed to plead.

An Invasion a Failure.

POMEROY, O., Dec. 23.—The expected invasion of Ohio miners into West Virginia yesterday to stop the nonunion miners from working at New Haven was a failure. The hundred who did get there were served with injunctions by United States deputy marshals, restraining them from going onto the premises of the Consumers and Coal Mining company. Fifty nonunion men worked in the mine yesterday undisturbed. The sheriff and his deputies left the scene last night. Two United States officers are still there, but no trouble is anticipated.

Killed a Catamount.

BUENA VISTA, O., Dec. 23.—Christ Colvin, a hunter, living on Twin creek, has just killed the first catamount killed in this section for a long time. His dogs chased the beast into a ledge of rock, but they would not venture in to fight him. Neither could Mr. Colvin get to him by digging. At last he tried fire, and finally succeeded in smoking the animal to death. He has killed several of these animals in his day. They can, in a fight, kill a whole pack of dogs. One vicious swipe with the hind foot and sharp claws will disembowel a dog.

IT LOOKS LIKE A WAR

China Depending Upon Russia to Help Her Out.

GERMANY REMAINS UNYIELDING

Chinese Counsel Divided As to Whether It Should Be Peace or War With Germany. The United States May Take a Hand If Affairs Become Serious—Latest on the Eastern Question.

PERKIN, Dec. 23.—The Chinese government has granted Russia permission to winter a squadron at Port Arthur. Great Britain demands a quid pro quo, if concessions have been made to other powers. It has been suggested that the Japanese and British occupy Wei-Hai-Wei jointly.

The situation at Kaio-Chou bay is unchanged. Germany remains unyielding and the Chinese counsels are divided as to whether it should be peace or war with Germany.

China regards Russia as her only friend and is asking her advice alone. British influence is nil, having suffered greatly through the failure of the loan negotiations. China is now negotiating a loan with Russia. The latter demands the dismissal of the British railroad engineers in north China, and it is probable that it will be granted. The German drill instructors will be dismissed at the expiration of their contracts and will be replaced by Russians. Russian officers have already been appointed to drill the armies of north China.

In spite of official denials, it is regarded as proved that Port Arthur and Kaio-Chou bay were promised to Russia by a secret treaty.

LOOKS SQUALLY FOR EUROPE.

Hear the Tune the Organ of the Great White Bear Plays.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 23.—In a strongly anti-British article The Novosti says: "In consequence of the pretension of England to compensate herself for the Russian occupation of Port Arthur by the acquisition of Port Hamilton or Lazareff, and in view of the possibility of the disturbing action of Japan, Europe stands on the brink of grave diplomatic complications. It is therefore well to recall that the reinforcement of the German squadron in the Pacific permits Russia, France and Germany to effectively prevent a disturbance of the balance of power between the three powers on one hand and Great Britain and Japan on the other, such as might be produced by violent seizures of territory."

The Novosti expresses the hope that the isolation of Great Britain in regard to the other European powers will "paralyze her action sufficiently to permit the preservation of peace from the dangers threatening it at the present moment."

HOW DO WE STAND?

The United States May Take a Hand in the Eastern Question.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—It is understood that the authorities here have been officially sounded as to the attitude of the United States toward the complications in the far east, with a view to learning whether American interests in China were regarded as sufficient to warrant any active step by this government. From what sources the inquiries have come is not disclosed. If from Great Britain it must have come through Colonel Hay, the American ambassador at London, as the British officials here have received no instructions as to the Chinese situation. It is well understood, however, that Great Britain would look with favor on any active step by the United States which would serve as a check for the advances of Germany and Russia.

The British interests in China are 10 times greater than those of Germany, Russia and the United States and yet, with Germany and Russia firmly located on Chinese soil, Great Britain is left in a sort of cul-de-sac. It is known also that the Chinese authorities would welcome a move by the United States and that this has been communicated to officials here. Although these soundings, for they amount to nothing more as yet, have not taken official form they have been sufficient to gain a pretty general understanding as to the attitude of this government.

MRS. BALLINGTON BOOTH ILL.

She Is in a Very Serious Condition and the Worst Is Feared.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Ballington Booth, wife of the commander of the American Volunteers, is now lying at the Presbyterian hospital in a very serious condition. Her condition has been diagnosed as one of aneurism of one of the important arteries, a condition which will require the most careful attention and one at which any moment may end the life of the sufferer. At all events, it is stated, Mrs. Booth will be confined to the hospital for a long time to come.

For almost a year Mrs. Booth has suffered with this disease, which to some extent has been aggravated by the numerous controversies arising out of the so-called rivalry between the officers of the American Volunteers and those of the Salvation Army. She is attended only by the physicians and nurses in charge and her secretary, Miss Jennie Hughes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The Coshooton National bank of Coshooton, O., has been authorized to begin business, capital \$50,000.